nature net

The **Nature***Kenya* Newsletter www.naturekenya.org November 06

World Bird Festival
November '06

Kenya's birds and birding
at the Sarit Centre Getaway Exhibition
Fri 3 - Sun 5 Nov' '06

Friday 3rd November '06

12:30 PM	*Treasure Trove of Biodiversity*	11 minutes
	Visit Arabuko-Sokoke Forest	Francis Kagema
1:30 PM	*Flying for Gold* - Feathered Athletes	29 minutes
2:30 PM	**Birds where you live and work**	Fleur Ng'weno
4:00 PM	**Birding Hot-spots**	Chege Kariuki
5:30 PM	*Eagle Odyssey*	50 minutes

Eagle Odyssey was winner of Best Script at Wildscreen 2004, Grand Prix Best Film award and most popular film and Best Story awards at the Valvert European Wildlife Film Festival

Saturday 4th November '06

11:30 AM	**Saving birds and bird sites**	Jacob Machekele
1:00 PM	*Flying for Gold* - Feathered Athletes	29 minutes
2:00 PM	**Bird Photography**	Paul Benson
3:30 PM	**Avian Flu**	Dr. Muchai Muchane
5:00 PM	*Winged Migration*	1 hour 26 minutes

Winged Migration won the 2002 Best Editing, César Awards & OSCAR-Best documentary feature; 2003 Best Cinematography, Boston Society of Film Critics Awards; 2003 Golden Reel Award for Best Sound Editing in a Foreign Feature

Sunday 5th November '06

11:00 AM	*Together for birds and people*	*30 minutes*
	Changes affecting Lesser Flamingo	Paul Ndang'ang'a
12:30PM	**Bird-watching at Tana River**	Tomaso Clima
2:00 PM	*California Condor*	15 minutes
	Birds of Prey	Dr. Munir Virani

California Condor won an Emmy Award in 2006; it is kindly provided by the Peregrine Fund

Happy bird-watching!

Your records are needed! Call/email to participate

1st prize - two nights for the team of one of the luxury Serena Lodges, in the low-season months of April, May or November. Kindly provided by **Serena Hotels.**
2nd prize - kindly provided by **Alliance Hotels.**

The winning team will see the highest proportion of bird species known from an Atlas Square. The 2nd prize will go to the best report back of the team event with photos .

NOV. AT A GLIMPSE

Fri 3 - Sun 5	Sarit Getaway Exhibition
Sat 11	Tree Walk
Sun 19	Sunday Birdwalk
Mon 27	Tree Walk

Birdwalks every Wednesdoy Morning

Editorial Team

Editor Catherine Ngarachu
Evening Skies Fleur Ng'weno
Naturalist's Corner Dino Martins
Action Serah Munguti

Castle Forest Lodge
Sat 9th - Mon 11th December '06

The Lodge is two and a half hours drive from Nairobi on the southern foot of Mount Kenya at 2081 metres. 9100/- p.p. sharing full board + guided walks. (Single supplement 11490/-) & child below 3 yeors holf price. Book with Nature Kenya **as soon as possible** or by **24 November 2006**

Kim Howell's talk and book signing

Ecological effects of a hydropower dam & the Kihansi Spray Toad

Talk by Dr. Kim M Howell
Tuesday 19 December

Kim will give on illustrated talk on the discovery of a critically endangered toad at Kihansi, Tanzania and what happened to it after a hydropower scheme was implemented (several species of plants were also affected).

Kim has co-authored a number of field guides on reptile and amphibians and these will be on sale if you wish to purchase a copy:

- **A Field Guide to the Reptiles of East Africa @ 3600/-**
- **Pocket Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of East Africa @ 1980/-**

You can also bring a book you have already bought for Kim to sign after the talk.

Museum main gate closed!

Use another new entrance about 50 metres along the fence

Society offices at the Museum

You will find Nature Kenya offices at the Ford Hall and at a prefabricated building. The prefab building is located enroute to the Snake Park and is the office for the Nature Kenya membership shop and subscription desk.

Direct Debit!

Pay subscriptions this way

Request an authorizing form from Nature Kenya

Plan to register a friend or relative as a *member!*

NATURE KENYA, P. O. Box 44486, 00100 GPO Nairobi Tel: 3749957 / 3746090 Fax: 3741049 E-mail: office@naturekenya.org

Special Benefits for Society of Conservation Biology members in Developing Countries

SCB now offers free online access to SCB members in developing countries for the publications: *Conservation Biology*, *Conservation In Practice* and *Biological Conservation*. This is made possible by their partners - Elsevier Publishing, Blackwell Publishing and The Nature Conservancy.
Anyone working in the field of conservation, or in a related field, is qualified to be an **SCB** member.
For more information check the SCB website: http://conbio.org. or contact Dr. Alan Thornhill, Society for Conservation Biology at athornhill@conbio.org

Discussion Forum

make your opinion known at www.naturekenya.org/forum

newsletter by email?

It would be a PDF of below 1 MB.
Please confirm this preference by sending a note and your current email to office@naturekenya.org
Due to spam filters yahoo, hotmail and other such address will not normally deliver emails sent in bulk, so please do not give email addresses with these extensions. Thank you.

library re-opens

located at the Natural Sciences Building, National Museums of Kenya Nairobi (next to the Langi Langi cafeteria) INTERNET AVAILABLE

City Park is again in danger from approved development

Area behind and around the Goan/ Ist World War Cemetery cleared for development

An area of City Park has been approved for development by the Nairabi City Council. Located in Parklands, Nairobi, City Park is a public utility, set aside by the gavernment in 1932 as a public park. It consists of famous gardens and an area af indigenaus forest. Some af the area has also been gazetted as a National Monument by the Natianal Museums af Kenya.

The Friends of City Park, a special project of Nature Kenya, is questianing this appraval and will be requesting the relevant government departments to protect City Park for the people and visitors of Nairobi.

action

The Friends will also send aut an email petition to Nature Kenya members and supporters, to protest the subdivision of City Park for any other use and to petition the gavernment to protect this park for present and future generations.

Please lend yaur suppart!

Petitions can also be signed at the Nature Kenya affice

We still need help and your ideas *on* ...

History of the Museum, a new Museum exhibit

Do you have any pictures or information on the Museums of Kenya's history? We would like to hear from you as soon as possible - please email or call 3746090. What about experience or skill in the preparation of a Museum exhibit? We need your help with this History exhibit!

1909 - 2009

centenary celebrations

In 2009 Nature Kenya (the East Africa Natural History Society) celebrates 100 years of research, education and conservation

Give us your suggestions as to how we can celebrate this achievement!

One suggestion has been - a commemorative postage stamp - but what can you suggest one or more stamps might look like?

EVENING SKY

Ian Mackay & Fleur Ng'weno

Moon, November 2006

5 Nov Full moan; 12 Nav Last quarter - overhead at sunrise; 21 New moon ; 28 First quarter - overhead at sunset

Planets, November 2006

There is drama in the evening sky, as the bright planet Jupiter sinks into the sunset. In December the planet Venus, brighter still, will begin ta rise in the west. Saturn is in the morning sky before dawn.

November Stars and galaxies

In the narthern sky, the bright stars Altair, Deneb and Vega are dipping towards the west. The Milky Way lies across the narth-western part of the sky, like a pale band of clouds. The Milky Way is a galaxy af millians and millians of stars, to which aur salar system belongs.

Two bright stars dominate the southern sky: Achernar midway from the horizon, and Fomalhaut high above.

Below Achernar, low on the southern horizon, are two pale areas like small, low clouds. These are the Small and Large Magellanic Clauds. They are actually small galaxies, composed af millians af stars. They are the nearest galaxies to us, apart from aur awn Milky Way.

High averhead, a little to the narth, faur stars farm the carners of a large square shape. This constellation is the Great Square of Pegasus, the flying horse of ancient Greek legends. Between Pegasus and the "M" shape af the canstellatian Cassiapeia, laok carefully far a blurred bright light. That bright, fuzzy spot is the great spiral nebula M 31, the Andromeda galaxy. It is larger than our Milky Way, but very far away.

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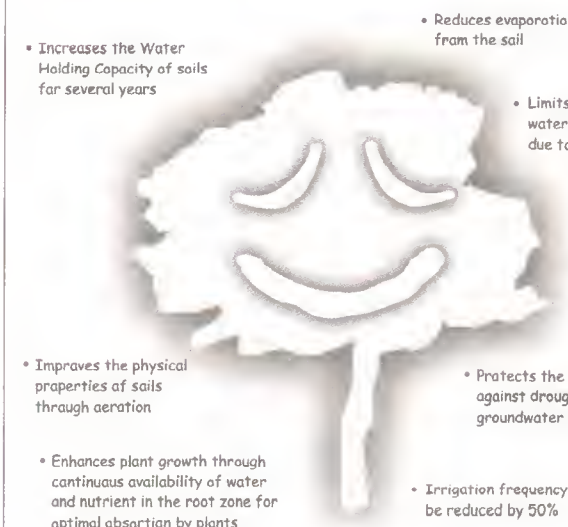
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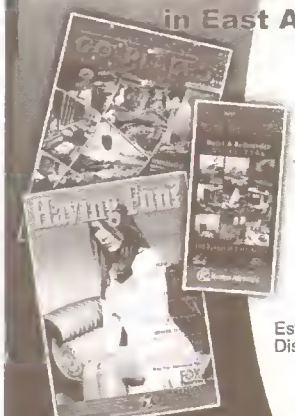

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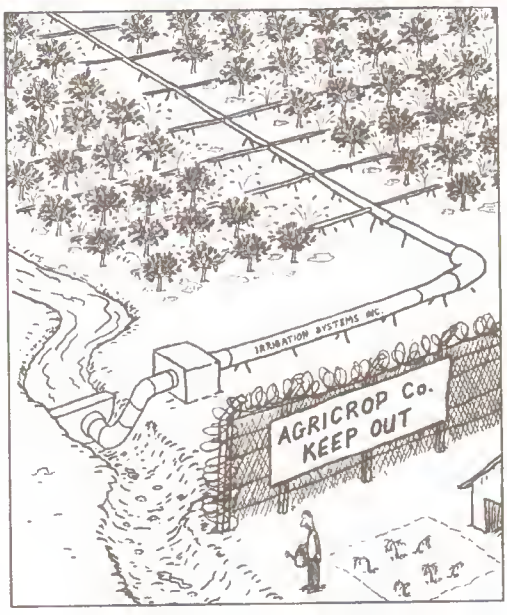

For more Chris Madden cartoons buy his book "The Beast that ate the Earth" from his website www.chrismadden.org

Up & about

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park near Langi Langi cafe every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

TREE WALKS

Guided tree walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. 11 and **27 Nov. 06** from 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Arboretum gate. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e. 19 Nov. '06.** The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

SAMAKI DAYS

Guided fish excursions on the first Thursday, i.e. **2 Nov. '06** from 9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Nairobi Museum car park. *Pay Ksh 50/- per person on arrival*

KINANGOP GUEST HOUSE

Perched on the Kinangop Plateau with incredible views across the Rift Valley, the farm combines tussock-grass pasture, indigenous forest, and attractive gardens. The guesthouse is comfortable and fully furnished. Visitors can enjoy hikes and walks on the farm or go further afield with local guides.

For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenya. Guest House rates: Day visit 350/-

MEMBER nos	Overnight	Weekend
1 to 2 pax	4000/-	6500/-
3 pax	4,900/-	7,400/-
4 pax	5,800/-	8,300/-

20% OFF ACCOMMODATION AT THE DRIFTWOOD

On presentation of your membership card, you can get this discount off accommodation (if paying by cash or cheque) at the Driftwood Beachclub. This is a charming beachfront property with great food and service. Contact: <gm@driftwoodclub.com or tel 042 20155

Ngong Road Forest Walks

Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks held the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. **4 & 18 Nov. '06, at 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse. Call Ignatius to confirm on 3875207 or 0720 976299.

Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu)

The Lake Victoria Sunset Birders organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call 057 42952 or 0734 994938 or email lakevictoriasunsetbirders@yahoo.co.uk

Mt Kenya Biodiversity Conservation Group (MKBCG)

The MKBCG organise bird walks to sites around Naro Moru every last Saturday of the month i.e. **25 Nov. '06.**
For more information contact 0722 364904, 0733 937115 or 062 62071 Email: mt_kebia@yahoo.co.uk_

Birding at Kinangop

Friends of Kinangop Plateau organise birdwalks every third Friday of the month i.e. **17 Nov. 06** at 9:00 a.m around Magumu and Njambini areas. To participate contact Bakari Ng'ang'a on 0721 470215

MARURA NAROK BIRDWATCHERS

A community group near Uasa Narok Swamp, Rumuruti, which organises birdwalks every last Saturday i.e. **25 Nov. '06.** Call 062 32718 or email olmaisor@africaonline.co.ke

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **4 Nov. '06, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person. KWS fees now apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. **18 Nov. '06.** Please call Marlene Reid on (041) 491 648 to confirm

NatureKenya

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